



The Engineering Institute of Canada

2023 Award Citation

EIC Fellow



Velko Tzolov

Nominated by IEEE Canada

Dr. Velko Tzolov is a leading technology professional with an outstanding engineering R&D and business background. As a Director General he leads the Advanced Electronics and Photonics Research Centre and the Canadian Photonics Fabrication Center at the National Research Council of Canada. Dr. Tzolov also served as a Director of NRC's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP), supporting a large portfolio of small and medium-sized enterprises developing innovative technologies, and several key IRAP innovation ecosystem initiatives.

He also served as an industrial technology advisor with NRC IRAP, as well as an officer with the Energy, Mining and Environment portfolio, focusing on engineering projects in clean energy and on-grid energy storage in Vancouver. Dr. Tzolov is the founder of three Canadian technology firms: Optiwave Systems, Peleton Photonics Systems and Palladium 7 Corporation, where he was leading strategic industrial technology development and commercialization, including major business transactions, securing venture capital, mergers and acquisitions, and IP asset transactions.

He led developments of the world's first commercial engineering simulation tool for Erbium Doped Fiber Amplifiers, as well as the Finite Difference Time Domain photonic simulator OptiFDTD, which is of critical importance for advanced photonics research globally. Dr. Tzolov also managed sizeable engineering technology deals and partnerships within multinational business development teams in over 50 countries worldwide.

Ladies and gentlemen, and Ms. President, please welcome Velko Tzolov as a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada.